

# Rural & Frontier Health Division Update

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Welcome to the ninth issue of the "Rural and Frontier Health Division Update!" This newsletter is provided as an informational source on activities involving the programs and services within the division. Comments and/or suggestions are welcomed and may be addressed to [WDH-RFHD@health.wyo.gov](mailto:WDH-RFHD@health.wyo.gov).

## Office of Rural Health

### The Wyoming Office of Rural Health has a new look!



The Wyoming Office of Rural Health administers four federal and five state programs (click this link for more information <http://www.health.wyo.gov/Media.aspx?mediaId=7791>). Watch for us as we develop new educational materials to share the resources available through the Office of Rural Health. Please check the Office of Rural Health website for up-to-date information on these and other programs: <http://health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/index.html>.

## Workforce Wellness Summit:

Business representatives from around the state met in Cheyenne September 24-25 at the Little America Hotel and Resort. Major topics of discussion included:

"What to do about healthcare costs is a continuing concern for Wyoming employers," said Joe Grandpre, chronic disease section chief with the Wyoming Department of Health. "With disease prevention as a focus, Wyoming's employers can help both their workers and their own financial picture by adopting workforce wellness programs."

Dave Ivester, heart disease and stroke prevention program manager with the Wyoming Department of Health, said last year's first summit was well received and that's what led to the planning of this year's event. "We'll once again 'make the case' for workforce wellness along with describing a number of options for companies of various sizes."

Featured speakers included Steve Alana, author of "The Culprit and the Cure"; Donna Allen Dover, founder of Positive Purpose, Inc.; Mark Fenton, former host of the PBS show "America's Walking"; Bill Rice, occupational health manager at Campbell County Memorial Hospital in Gillette; Tammy Till, wellness coordinator for Wyoming state government; Teresa Araas, wellness coordinator with Memorial Hospital of Sheridan County; Mark Hicks, Wyoming Through with Chew coordinator; Vicki Pirayesh, Wyoming Health Fairs director; Pete Shatwell, preventive health strategies director with TwoMedicine Health and Financial Fitness; and Joe Grandpre.

**USDA Report – Health Status and Health Care Access of Farm and Rural Populations (August 2009):**

This report focuses on the health status and healthcare access of members of the nation's rural households and farm-operator households in comparison with those of urban and nonfarm households. Visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB57/> to view the full report.

**Featured Publications Available at the HRSA Information Center**

**Web-Based Oral Health Curricula for Health Professionals and Human Service Providers:**



This brochure provides information about the web-based curricula modules: A Health Professional's Guide to Pediatric Oral Health Management; Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals; and Special Care: An Oral Health Professional's Guide to Serving Young Children with Special Health Care Needs. It lists special features that are included in each curriculum. The brochure includes website URL's for each curriculum. This publication is available for U.S. requests only. Use inventory code [MCH00192](#) to order.

**Satisfaction with Practice and Decision to Relocate: An Examination of Rural Physicians. Final Report:**

This study examines physician satisfaction with various aspects of practice and its association with decisions to continue or discontinue practicing in a rural location. It addresses three critical issues: the aspects of practice that were most likely to be sources of dissatisfaction, the types of dissatisfaction associated with decisions to move to a less rural community, and how physicians' expectations about moving or remaining in a rural area compare with their actual practice location decisions. The report includes tables and references. Use inventory code [ORHP00461](#) to order.

**Good News from the National Health Service Corps:**

NHSC clinicians across the country provide primary healthcare service to communities in need while eliminating educational financial debt with tax free loan repayment awards. Now applying to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program just got easier, as the application is on-line.

Eligible providers include U.S. citizens or nationals that have been trained and credentialed in an eligible primary care discipline:

- Allopathic (MD) or Osteopathic (DO) Physician
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Certified Nurse-Midwife
- Primary Care Physician Assistant
- Dentist
- Dental Hygienist
- Health Service Psychologist
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialist
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Professional Counselor

Additionally, providers must work in a Geographic Healthcare Provider Shortage Area (HPSA). Wyoming's HPSAs can be found at: <http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/HPSA.html>.

The new LRP application can be found at: <https://lrpbcrs.hrsa.gov>. Links to the new Application Information Bulletin (AIB) and Forms can be found at: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment>. Visit [www.nhsc.hrsa.gov](http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov) for more information.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Applications are being accepted continuously through July 29, 2010.

#### **Magnet Status Update:**

In, 2008, the Wyoming Legislature provided funding for up to three hospitals to achieve Magnet status. Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) and Wyoming Medical Center (WMC) were awarded these grants from the Office of Rural Health.

Magnet status is an award given by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center, an affiliate of the American Nurses Association, to hospitals that satisfy a set of criteria designed to measure the strength and quality of their nursing. A Magnet hospital is one where nursing delivers excellent patient outcomes, nurses have a high level of job satisfaction, and there is a low staff nurse turnover rate and appropriate grievance resolution. Under terms of the grants, these two Wyoming hospitals have until 2013 to obtain Magnet status.

On August 21, nurse leadership from WMC met with their colleagues at CRMC to share experiences, ideas, and strategies to enhance each facility's success with the grant program. "Any collaboration any hospital does in Wyoming is better for patients" said Sandra Conklin, R.N., M.S.N., Director of Nursing Services at WMC. "Although Magnet is a program for nursing excellence, it's really about excellence in patient care."

Watch future newsletters for updates on WMC and CRMC's Magnet journey.

#### **Satisfaction with Practice and Decision to Relocate:**

An Examination of Rural Physicians. Final Report [May 2009] is available at:  
<http://www.health.wyo.gov/Media.aspx?mediaId=7808>

#### **Vital Statistics Services**

##### **100 Years of Service and Vital Statistics Services Program Going Strong:**

July 1, 2009 was the century mark for the service by Vital Statistics Services to the constituents of the State of Wyoming. Through the years, it has been known by various names, from the "State Bureau of Vital Statistics" to the "Vital Records Services" to the now current "Vital Statistics Services." Although its name has been changed through the years, the mission and purpose has remained constant—the compulsory registration of vital events that occur within the state boundaries of Wyoming and the data reporting that results.

1907 State Statute Required Filing of Birth and Death Records Prior to 1907, the filing of birth and death certificates was not necessary in Wyoming. But then, the State Bureau of Vital Statistics was entrusted to register birth and death certificates by Session Laws of Wyoming, 1907, Chapter 99. The law was implemented July 1, 1909.

As World War I, The Great Depression, the Social Security Act, and then the governmental impact of World War II defined more specific accountability of populations, the registration of marriage and divorce certificates also became a requirement by Session Laws of Wyoming, 1941, Chapter 115.

Today, Wyoming's vital records remain confidential records and document all birth, death, stillbirth, marriage, divorce that occur within the state. Of equal importance to all who live in or have loved ones residing in the state, is the data that results from the tabulation of information held within the records. This information is highly important and is used to study health concerns, research involving demographic and social trends, and genealogy. These records are also equally important as original source documentation for a person and are relied upon to substantiate claim to various benefits and services.

#### Services Provided by Our Staff

- File birth, death, stillbirth, marriage and divorce certificates
- Issue certified copies of birth, death, stillbirth, marriage and divorce certificates
- File delayed certificates
- Make corrections and amendments to records
- File adoption records
- Provide health statistics and data reports from information recorded during document filing

Although filing vital records is one of the major activities of the program, providing certified copies as requested has become an even bigger responsibility. While there has been a 5% increase in births occurring within the state within the last three years, during that time, requests for certified copies have increased 17%. The increase has resulted from the public experiencing an increased demand for proof of their identity as they manage their own personal business needs. During 2008, 7,445 births were filed by VSS and 89,116 certified copies distributed.

*As Fifteen Other States Continue to Have Open Access to Records, Wyoming's Records Remain Confidential.* The Session Laws of Wyoming, 1941, Chapter 115 classified all vital records as confidential. Certificates could not be inspected, nor could copies be acquired unless an applicant had a direct and tangible interest in the matter recorded.

*Why Restrictions to Records?* Unguarded access to vital records allows a perpetrator to use documents for identity fraud. The concern among the general population about birth certificates specifically, stems from known fraudulent practices for immigration, naturalization, work permits, social security and social service benefits.

*Stolen Identity.* Today, identity theft has become a very expensive nightmare. It can take years to solve financial and personal problems caused by the record tampering. Possible results of identity theft:

- Driver's license or official ID card issued in your name but another person's picture
- Government benefits issued with your name and Social Security Number
- Fraudulent tax return with your information.
- Employment of another person using your Social Security Number
- House rental or medical services in your name
- Your personal information given during an arrest. A warrant for arrest is issued in your name
- Delinquent accounts may appear on your credit report
- Billing address changed on credit card and you no longer receive bills, and then charges continue on your account
- New phone or wireless accounts in your name, or charges run up on your existing account
- New utility services--electricity, heating, or cable TV—in your name
- Your ATM or debit card is cloned and electronic withdrawals drain your accounts
- A loan is taken out in your name

VSS wants to help you avoid these costly problems and asks you to take care and guard your own security. Everyone should be vigilant about safeguarding their personal information. Birth certificates are considered to be “breeder documents” and should never be carried unless you have an immediate use for them. Birth certificates need to be returned to you immediately, and should not be kept by another person. Do not carry your social security card or anything that has the number on it. Securing your identity begins with you.



### **Community Services Programs**

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:**

With local economies declining, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding has helped Wyoming communities serve the increased needs of low-income people around the state. The city of Casper, according to news articles on KCWY-TV and in the Wyoming State Tribune, dropped its funding of the subsidized low-cost housing KC Apartments giving residents 10 days to evacuate their homes. Community Action Partnership of Natrona County used the ARRA (stimulus) money to assist those families with rent in order to keep them from becoming homeless.

Community Action of Laramie County, Inc. (CALC) is using stimulus money to provide funding for medical, vision, and dental needs and to develop a “Self-Sufficiency Calculator;” a tool that provides instant information about available services, requirements, and application processing for low-income people who are affected by deteriorating economic conditions. The tool will save low-income clients time and travel costs by easily locating services and resources they need to return them toward self-sufficiency. The COMEA shelter in Cheyenne is noticing smaller contributions and larger numbers of people in need, making the need for emergency shelter more critical than ever before.

The Salvation Army of Gillette is using stimulus money for rent and utility assistance for families that have lost jobs or had dramatic cuts in their hours. Because of the impact of CSBG stimulus funds, the Salvation Army is able to provide more services to those families in order to help them survive as they try to re-enter the work field or to learn new skills that will enable them to find other areas of employment. The Gillette Abuse Refuge Foundation (GARF) uses CSBG stimulus funding to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault find safe and affordable housing and to gain life skills that will enable them to enter, or return to, a safe work environment.

Wyoming was awarded \$5 million in ARRA (stimulus) funds to be utilized by September 30, 2010. Twenty separate programs have been funded across the state, ranging from \$853,703 in Natrona County to \$19,985 in Niobrara County. The purpose of the funding is to stimulate the local economies and return unemployed people back into the work force as a move toward self-sufficiency.

## **Office of Multicultural Health**

The Multicultural Health Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting will be held at Hilton Garden Inn, Laramie October 29 & 30. For more information, please contact Betty Sones at (307)777-5601 or via email at [betty.sones@health.wyo.gov](mailto:betty.sones@health.wyo.gov).

### **Wyoming Multicultural Health Advisory Committee**

#### **2009-2010**

Candy Amerine	National Cancer Institute	Denise Padilla	WDH Breast & Cervical Cancer Detection Program
Michelle Antone	Indian Health Service	Jessica Perez	WDH Cancer Control Program
Gloria Baca	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	Joseph Pugliese	Veterans Affairs
Rosie Cardenas	Clinic for the Homeless	Lorenzo Olivas	US DHHS Minority Health Consultant
Gary Collins	Northern Arapaho Tribal Liaison	Roger Rapp	Peak Wellness
Angela Crottsenberg	WDH Epidemiology	Vida Day Sanchez	Health Map and El Puente
Joseph D'Eufemia	WDH Tobacco Program Coordinator	Allison Sage	Northern Arapaho Tribal Health
Floyd Esquibel	State Legislator	Doreen Sing	WDH Aging Division
Menlo Futa	WDH BRFSS Coordinator	Betty Sones	WDH Office of Multicultural Health
Renee Gamino	AARP	Harmony Spoonhunter	Eastern Shoshone Tribal Health
Joseph Grandpre	WDH Chronic Disease Section	Tahir Suleyman	Wyoming State Hospital
David Holbrook	WY Dept of Education	Carmen Thoms	With Eagles Wings
Keith Hotle	WDH Suicide Prevention Program	Mary Velasquez	Converse County Coalition, Victim Services
Dave Ivester	WDH Heart Disease/Stroke Prevention Program	Ed Wadda	Eastern Shoshone Tribal Liaison
Timothy Jones	WDH Tobacco Prevention/Control	Lucy Williamson	Wyoming Health Council
Cathy Keene	Wind River Health System	Casey Wood	UW Wyoming Institute for Disability, Connect WY
Patrick Monahan	WY Primary Care Association	Lillian Vigil Zuniga	UW Wyoming Institute for Disability
Marirose Morris	Urban Native American Wellness Program		

## **Diabetes Conference:**

The Wind River Diabetes Coalition will hold its first annual "Empowering Our Community to Live a Healthy Lifestyle" Conference in Lander on Friday, November 20, 2009. Click on <http://wdh.state.wy.us/rfhd/multicultural/index.html> for detailed information and registration form.

## Recent News

### Rural, Urban Differences in Health Insurance

Oct 5, 2009 -- Daily Yonder article finds that as the number of people employed goes up in rural counties so does the rate of uninsured.

### Secretary Sebelius Releases \$7.6 Million in Recovery Act Funds to Support Health Professionals Serving in High Need Areas

Oct 2, 2009 -- HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced 63 awards totaling more than \$7.6 million to help states recruit new health care clinicians and alleviate their debt burden, as part of the \$500 million allotted to HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to address workforce shortages and encourage diversity in the health professions.

### Recession Eases Nursing Shortage

Sep 28, 2009 -- Chattanooga Times Free Press, (TN) article reports that in the midst of an economic recession, the shortage of nurses in the United States has eased somewhat, experts said, with current nurses delaying retirement, putting off a career move or switching from part-time shifts to full-time employment.

## Funding Opportunities

### Safety-net Enhancement Initiative

Application deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

Funding designed to reduce health disparities within vulnerable communities by enhancing collaboration and coordination among agencies and institutions providing health and social supports to these communities.

### Small Research Grant to Improve Health Care Quality through Health Information Technology (IT) (R03)

Application deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

Funding to support the development and enhancement of expertise in health IT and related disciplines, including research and evaluation methods.

### General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids Grant Program

Application deadline: Jan 15, 2010

Grants for programs to encourage communities to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people.

## Upcoming Events:

- Multicultural Health Advisory Council Meeting, October 29-30, Laramie, WY
- NOSORH Annual Conference, November 17-19, Austin, TX
- Multiracial & Multicultural Health Conference, December 9-11, Memphis, TN
- Rural Health Policy Institute, January 25-27, Washington, D.C.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd](http://www.health.wyo.gov/rfhd)